Concessions for Foreign Investment in Road and Port Sector

†193. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently announced further concessions for the investment of foreign capital for construction of roads and ports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that construction work is being undertaken in the country for various roads and ports construction projects; and

(d) if so, the details of the projects under private sector, public sector and joint sector and the target date of the completion of construction work for each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Automatic approval of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been increased from 74% to 100% for the road sector and port sector projects upto Rs. 1500 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A list of projects so far awarded to private sector on BOT basis for the Road Sector and Port Sector are at Annexure *(See* Appendix 188—Annexure No. 5).

Road Accidents

194. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of road accidents has continuously been increasing since last few years;

(b) if so, the number of total road accidents registered in the country during the years of 1996, 1997 and 1998;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) what has been the total consequential loss of life and property during each year of the above years; and

(d) whether Government have found out the increase in the number of such accidents, if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. (b) The total number of road accidents are as under:

Year	Number of Accidents
1996 (in respect of 31 States/UTs.)	3,55,103
1997 (in respect of 29 States/UTs.)	2,90,415
1998 - (in respect of 25 States/UTs.)	2,83,564

(c) Number of persons who lost their lives is 71,943 (1996), 61000 (1997) and 57,800 (1998). Assessment of loss of property cannot be worked out as it depends on various factors like loss of personal belongings of passengers, damage to vehicles, roads and other properties'.

(d) Various reasons for increase in road accidents are: Lack of traffic discipline on the part of drivers and road users, phenominal increase in the number of motor vehicles with no corresponding increase in road capacity, mixed traffic conditions, overspeeding, overloading, drunken driving, mechanical defects in vehicles etc.

Tourists inflow in Kashmir

195. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Ministr of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inflow of tourists is picking-up in Kashmir;

(b) if so, what was the number of tourists in the last two years; and

(c) what new attractions and facilities are being provided to attract more tourist?